Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 18668 301619Z

45
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NIC-01 AID-20 IGA-02 DPW-01

DRC-01 /150 W
---------- 126774
R 301034Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8647
INFO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI
AMCONSUL UDORN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 18668

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH
SUBJECT: PRESSURES ON THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. SINCE THE OUSTER OF THE THANOM GOVERNMENT, VARIOUS GROUPS HAVE CALLED FOR THE RESIGNATION OF THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (NLA) THAT IT APPOINTED. THE UNITED STUDENT AND PEOPLE'S FRONT ISSUED A LEAFLET OCTOBER 18 CALLING FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF THE NLA. SIMULTANEOUSLY ANOTHER GROUP DRAWN FROM THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY HAS MADE THE SAME SUGGESTION. MOST RECENTLY THE THAMMASAT POSTGRADUATE GROUP HAS CALLED FOR THE RESIGNATION OF THE NLA.

2. THE NLA HELD A CLOSED SESSION NOVEMBER 29 TO DEBATE ASSEMBLYMAN MARUT BUNNAG'S MOTION FOR RESIGNATION EN MASSE. ANOTHER ASSEMBLYMAN LATER TOLD US THAT DURING THE DEBATE MARUT RAISED THE SPECTER OF A STUDENT DEMONSTRATION. MARUT SUPPOSEDLY SAID THAT THE UNIVERSITY
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 18668 301619Z

SESSIONS WOULD BE OVER IN A COUPLE OF DAYS, AND THAT IF

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

THE NLA DID NOT RESIGN IT COULD EXPECT THE STUDENTS TO MARCH ON PARLIAMENT BUILDING. THE ASSEMBLYMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE THE NLA TO RESIGN WAS THE FIRST DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH THE MILITARY, SINCE ALMOST THREE FOURTHS OF THE NLA MEMBERSHIP ARE MILITARY OFFICERS.

3. A MEMBER OF THE NLA SECRETARIAT TOLD US THAT AFTER AN HOUR AND A HALF OF CLOSED SESSION, THE NLA MADE NO DECISION TO RESIGN. HE POINTED OUT THAT FIFTY PERCENT OF THE NLA MEMBERS DID NOT EVEN PARTICIPATE IN THE CLOSED SESSION.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THERE ARE PRESSURES ON THE NLA TO RESIGN, SOME CIVILIAN ASSEMBLYMEN MAY NOT BE WILLING TO PRESS THE ISSUE. THE OPEN SESSION OF THE NLA NOVEMBER 29 WAS UNIQUE C V GAHLNP DESPITE AN ABBREVIATED AGENDA, IT WAS AN EXTREMELY LONG SESSION, MAINLY BECAUSE CIVILIAN ASSEMBLYMEN WERE TAKING THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SOME ELECTIONEERING BEFORE THE ASSEMBLED PRESS. KINTNER

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